

Remarks

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6 and 13-18 are indicated as being allowable. Claims 7-12 and 19-21 are indicated as having allowable subject matter. Claims 7 and 9 have been amended. The specification has been amended. The drawings have been amended. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth herein.

1. The Examiner has objected to the drawings for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the drawings do not show the waterproof grommet supporting member that is recited in claims 7 and 9.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. On page 5, lines 18-20, the specification states that the grommet cap 60 functions as a waterproof grommet supporting member. The grommet cap 60 is shown in Figure 3. The drawings, therefore, show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Removal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

2. The Examiner has objected to the drawings because they include reference numerals that are not mentioned in the specification. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the specification does not include the reference numerals 111, 121, 123, 140, 141, and 143.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. The reference numerals 111, 121, 123, 140, 141, and 143 appear on page 2, lines 1-4 of the specification. Removal of the objection to the drawings for having reference numerals not mentioned in the specification, therefore, is respectfully requested.

3. The Examiner has objected to the drawings because Figures 1(E) and 1(F) are not shown in the drawings.

A proposed Figure 1 has been submitted to replace the formal drawing of Figure 1 submitted on April 4, 2003 with markings to show Figures 1(E) and 1(F) as originally shown in the drawings filed with the application. Removal of the objection to the drawings, therefore, is respectfully requested.

4. The Examiner has objected to the specification for identifying two separate elements with identical reference numerals. Specifically, the Examiner stated that “protruding parts 23” on page 6, line 23 is identified with the same reference numeral as “the recessed parts 23” on page 6, lines 26-27.

The specification has been amended to change the “the recessed parts 23” on page 6, lines 26-27 to --the recessed parts 43 – to correct the typographical error in the specification. Removal of the objection to the specification, therefore, is respectfully requested.

5. The Examiner has objected to the specification for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner stated that in claim 7 and 9 “the through-hole by engaging with at least one protruding part formed on a waterproof grommet supporting member” and, in claim 19, “a protrusion formed on a supporting member” is not supported by the original specification.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Page 5, lines 18-26 of the originally filed specification recites that “the grommet cap 60 functions as a waterproof grommet supporting member...the grommet cap 60 has three protruding parts 62 that align the through-holes 21 of the grommet 1

and the contact cavities 41 by entering the recessed parts 33 of the waterproof grommet 1, and page 5, lines 27-30 of the originally filed specification recites that “alternatively, the protruding parts 62 may be disposed on a front surface of the engaging part 42 of the connector housing 40 and used as waterproof grommet supporting members.” Therefore, although the illustrated embodiment shows the through-holes as engaging with protruding parts formed on the grommet cap, alternative embodiments of supporting members with protruding parts are possible, as supported by the specification. The originally filed specification, therefore, supports the claimed subject matter. Removal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

6. The Examiner has rejected claims 7-12 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor has possession of the invention at the time the invention was made. Specifically, the Examiner stated that in claim 7 and 9 “the through-hole by engaging with at least one protruding part formed on a waterproof grommet supporting member” and, in claim 19, “a protrusion formed on a supporting member” is not supported by the original specification.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. As previously discussed, page 5, lines 18-26 of the originally filed specification recites that “the grommet cap 60 functions as a waterproof grommet supporting member...the grommet cap 60 has three protruding parts 62 that align the through-holes 21 of the grommet 1 and the contact cavities 41 by entering the recessed parts 33 of the waterproof grommet 1, and page 5, lines 27-30 of the originally filed specification recites that “alternatively, the protruding parts 62 may be disposed on a front surface of the engaging part 42 of the connector housing 40 and used as waterproof grommet supporting members.” Therefore,

although the illustrated embodiment shows the through-holes as engaging with protruding parts formed on the grommet cap, alternative embodiments of supporting members with protruding parts are possible, as supported by the specification. The originally filed specification, therefore, supports the claimed subject matter. Removal of the rejection to claims 7-12 and 19-21 is respectfully requested.

7. The Examiner has rejected claims 7-12 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With regard to claims 7 and 9, the Examiner stated that “an electrical wire that connects a contact is passed” is unclear. Claims 7 and 9 have been amended to clarify that “an electrical wire that connects to a contact is passed.”

With regard to claims 7 and 9, the Examiner stated that “which can adhere tightly to the electrical wire” is confusing and unclear as to what adheres to the electrical wire. Claims 7 and 9 have been amended to clarify that “the first sealing part being formed to adhere tightly to the electrical wire.”

With regard to claims 7, 9, and 19, the Examiner stated that the limitations “the through-hole by engaging with at least one protruding part formed on the grommet supporting member” and “a protrusion formed on a supporting member” are confusing because they are not supported by the specification. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. As previously discussed, page 5, lines 18-26 of the originally filed specification recites that “the grommet cap 60 functions as a waterproof grommet supporting member...the grommet cap 60 has three protruding parts 62...” and page 5, lines 27-30 of the originally filed specification recites that “alternatively, the

protruding parts 62 may be disposed on a front surface of the engaging part 42 of the connector housing 40 and used as waterproof grommet supporting members.” Therefore, although the illustrated embodiment shows the through-holes as engaging with protruding parts formed on the grommet cap, alternative embodiments of supporting members with protruding parts are possible, as supported by the specification.

With regard to claims 7 and 9, the Examiner stated that “the outer circumferential surface” is unclear because it is not clear what outer circumferential surface is being referred to. Claims 7 and 9 have been amended for clarity to recite “the outer circumferential surface of the through-hole.”

For the reasons set forth above, removal of the rejection to claims 7-12 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

8. Claims 7 and 9 have further been amended to correct typographical and grammatical errors and for clarity. Approval of these amendments is respectfully requested.

In view of the amendments and arguments presented herein, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and passage to issue is respectfully requested. The Examiner is further invited to contact the Applicant with regard to any of the arguments and amendments presented herein to advance prosecution of the subject application.

Please charge any additional fees associated with this application to Deposit Order Account No. 501581.

Respectfully submitted,
Noboru Yasuda, Applicant

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J M Slonaker", written over a horizontal line.

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